

## Our Musical Monthly.

Note.—It frequently happens that musical students come across something that is not quite clear, and therefore we intend in this department to try and answer such questions relating to music. Questions should be sent in not later than the 20th of each month; accompanied by the full names of the writers.

Breathes the deepest tone of woe—*—*

Alfred H. Pease, a well known New York pianist who has been missing for some time, was found dead in the streets of St. Louis, from excessive drinking.

Wilhelm, the violinist, will not pass through here, having left Australia for Europe, several weeks ago. His Australian tour was a financial failure.

Sir George Elvey has resigned his position as organist of St. George's Chapel, Windsor, England. He was appointed to the position by William IV.

Women are to be admitted to Cambridge (England) examinations for musical degrees on the same conditions as men.

A Berlin manufacturer has constructed an upright piano on a new system. Instead of being parallel to each other, the keys are arranged in a semi-circular form corresponding to the line described by the hands naturally, when they are moved away from each other with extended arms.

To ask a beginner to practice upon a poor piano or a mean violin, is about as rational as it would be to give an apprentice defective tools, and then expect him to do good work, and become an efficient mechanic.

Joseph Joachim Raff, pianist and composer, died recently in Berlin. He was born May 24th, 1822, at Sachsen. Raff's name has been a familiar one upon concert programmes within the past ten years. His most popular works are "Lenore" and "Im Walde" and "In Summer" symphonies.

Annie Louise Cary, the great American contralto singer, was married last month to Mr. C. M. Raymond, a wealthy, well known New York broker. This accomplished lady will be much missed from the concert stage.

It is said that the twang of the bow string as the arrow sped on its course was the first suggestion of the harp, which in turn suggested the piano. Thus, an ancient implement of war was the forerunner of a modern war among piano makers.

It is a very great error to suppose that my art has been so easily acquired. I assure you that there is scarcely any one who has so worked at the study of composition as I have. You could hardly mention any famous composer whose writings I have not diligently and repeatedly studied through.—Mozart.

The main spring of Italian music in the eighteenth century was the exclusive and passionate worship of the human voice." But Italian music has experienced a change. Its main spring is now in a box, and is worked with a handle.—E.C.

A Spanish King once took part in a string quartette. His Majesty soon got out of time, and the other musicians began to try to join in with him again. On observing this, the monarch, with all the pride of a musician, shouted: "Don't stop! Go ahead! I'll soon catch up with you!"

The American *Art Journal* devotes much space in a recent number, to choir conductors or leaders. It says: Of the hubing choir conductor or leader there is a large "crop," and often a strong voice capable only of a bellow, is the only recommendation they have, and they consider their duties well done if they can trot the choir through an anthem as a woman will trot an old horse on a journey a "little fast" or a "little slower." This is about all the training given. Many of these bunglers have no knowledge of the first principles of music, and consequently cannot correct a mistake in the performance. Being ignorant of all rules of harmony they are inadequate to correct or detect any typographical error in the composition or false note on the part of the performer. From such a leader "what can the harps be?"

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

C. S.—What is the meaning of the abbreviation op?

ANS.—It stands for the Latin word *opus*, meaning work or production. "Beethoven op. 10" would refer to the tenth published composition of Beethoven.

W. J.—Can you give me any information in regard to the "new touch" which some persons teach?

ANS.—You will constantly hear of persons who claim to have made a "great discovery," some shorter and better way of accomplishing wonders than was ever before known. As a rule, this is mere pretense. Common sense and hard work are the only indispensables to success. But common sense, is the most uncommon sense in the world. There is no really "new touch"; but there are many progressive ways of applying and developing old principles. Examine new ideas, of course; but do not adopt them merely because some unknown "professor" teaches them, unless they command themselves to your best reason.

Pixley's Reply.

The S. F. *Argonaut* of July 29th contains the following reply among the editorial notes to the *P. C. A.* of this city:

At a late hour, and as we are going to press, the Sandwich Island mail brings us a budget of gossip concerning an article upon island politics which some time ago appeared in the *Argonaut*. It seems that an individual by the name of Walter M. Gibson has, through a series of curious incidents and tricks of political legerdemain, struggled through a life of strange adventure to become a man of authority among the kaukas. He is now an official of influence with the Hawaiian king, has accumulated property, and owns a newspaper. In his very eventful, and to us interesting career, as we learn, the border line between crime and romance has been at times indistinct and tortuous. When the hypocrite, politician, and adventurer left off, and the honorable career began, it is difficult to say. When the American—if he is an American; the Mormon—if he was a Mormon—ended, and the Anglo-Hawaiian began, it is impossible to decide. Enough it is to know that now, at the un-

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